

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MINIMAL DISRUPTION DURING SOFTWARE  
UPGRADE OR RELOAD OF A NETWORK DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5           A method and system for resetting a network device.  
Specifically, in one embodiment, a method is disclosed for  
upgrading and/or reloading software for a network device with  
minimal disruption. The method begins by separating  
operations associated with layer two of an International  
10   Standardization Organization Open Systems Interconnect  
(ISO/OSI) reference model from other layers in the ISO/OSI  
reference model in a network device. Then, the software  
operations in layer two of the network device are reset. The  
software operations are reset while maintaining continuity  
15   for a communication session between the network device and  
other network devices coupled together through a network.  
Thereafter, for minimal disruption, execution of the software  
operations is recovered at layer two before continuity of the  
communication session s terminated.

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